'Why I kept wife's cellar tomb secret'

THEN CONFESSION IS DENIED

BRICKLAYER David Riley, accused of burying his strangled wife in a cellar, was said yesterday to have told a policeman:

"I realised I couldn't give myself up until my children were sufficiently advanced in age and strength.

"I decided to conceal the body until such time as I was in a position to hand it over.

"I decided I would need at least three years to get the children out of the baby stage."

Riley, aged 30, of Hawes Place, Leeds, has denied in Leeds Crown court murdering his wife Thelma on Christmas Eve, 1970.

Detective Chief Superintendent Dennis Hoban told the court of Riley's "confession."

Western Daily Press Reporter

He said Riley told him: "I decided to give myself up as soon as Donna was accepted for school."

Riley said he decided to bury his wife in the cellar and said: "I dug a neat and tidy grave," the superintendent continued.

Mr. David Savill, QC, prosecuting, said Riley had kept his secret for two-and-a-half years.

BLUFFED

On June 22 an anonymous telephone call claiming his wife was buried in the cellar brought two policemen to the house.

Riley bluffed his way out of trouble with: "What here? You must be joking," said Mr. Savill.

But on July 10 he went to his solicitor and said he had accidentally killed his wife.

Mr. Savill said: "Day in and day out since Christmas Eve 1970, Riley had been living in the house with his two children, and with his wife in the cellar buried under some concrete."

It must have been a terrible shock to find someone knew.

WOUNDING

On July 10, Riley, his mother and the woman he had been living with at the house went to the offices of Leeds solicitor Mr. Ronald Teeman, who called the police.

In the cellar, workmen dug through four inches of concrete, under which was hard core and soil.

Mrs. Riley's body was found wrapped in a blanket — with a pair of tights tied tightly round her neck.

Mr. Savill said that the tights went round the neck four times. However Mrs. Riley met her death, it was not an accident.

The couple married in 1966. Mrs. Riley left after three years, but in the last 12 months she was coming and going from the house.

In August 1970 they had a row and she cut him with a pair of scissors.

She was charged with wounding her husband with intent to do serious harm and was committed for trial at Leeds Assizes on bail.

"While awaiting trial she disappeared," said Mr. Savill.

'MY RAGE'

Chief Supt. Hoban said Riley told him during an interview that on Christmas Eve 1970 his wife followed him home and in the house lunged at him with a pair of scissors.

"This incident and untold years of frustration and embarrassment throughout our married life made me go out of my mind . . .

I went black with rage, totally beside myself. The actions that occurred after that I cannot recall. I was completely out of my mind."

He said he took his wife upstairs and put her in bed before deciding to bury her.

Riley had denied making the anonymous phone call on June 22, Supt. Hoban added.

The trial goes on today.

Nice one, Cyril

CYRIL Fletcher kept an appointment to help conserve Cheltenham yesterday.

Accompanied by his actress wife, Betty Astell, he planted a Chinese Ailanthus tree in Pittville Park, as part of the town's campaign to replace 2,000 trees lost through Dutch elm disease.

His choice of tree is appropriate.

It ties in with the Oriental flavour of the pantomime the couple will present at the Everyman Theatre next month: Aladdin.

Well done, a judge tells 8 freed of phreaking

EIGHT men accused in the Old Bailey phone phreaks trial were cleared yesterday — and then congratulated by Judge Neil McKinnon.

"I never did think you were dishonest, and never said so," said the judge.

But then he told the eight, who included a computer programmer, a teacher and a telephone engineer: "You really must exercise some care and judgment.

"Men of your distinction really ought never to find yourselves in the dock at the Central Criminal Court."

They had been said by the prosecution to have taken part in a plot to make telephone calls all over the world at local rates by the use of bleep machines and simulators.

A jury found them not guilty of conspiring to use the public telephone system with intent to avoid payment and of conspiring to dishonestly use electricity without authority.

EVIDENCE

The men were: **Brian Barker**, 26, school teacher, of West Kensington; **Roger Harris**, 26, development engineer, of Orpington, Kent; **Anthony Kidson**, 25, assistant executive telephone engineer, Lewisham, London; **Andrew Marland**, 25, technical adviser, of Hampstead.

Duncan Campbell, 21, student, of Brasenose College, Oxford; **Donald Ward**, 24, design engineer, of Upper Woolhampton, Reading; **Jan Erickson**, 21, unemployed ,of Shepherds Bush, London, and **Nigel Bevan**, 27, computer programmer, of Hounslow, Middlesex.

INTERESTED

All except Erickson, who did not go into the witness box, gave evidence that they had been interested in telephone systems for a number of years, but had never intended or taken part in any fraudulent activities.

Kidson was also acquitted of stealing a Post Office power unit and two telephones and of dishonestly handling them.

On the judge's direction, Barker was also cleared of dishonestly handling Post Office equipment.

Ward and Bevan were each ordered to pay £15 defence costs and the others were ordered to pay £20 each.

Earlier in the trial ten men who changed their pleas to guilty were fined a total of £770.

Alas and alack, give that poet the sack!

A LABOUR MP has called for the dismissal of the Poet Laureate, Sir John Betjeman, because of his "disastrous" poem about Princess Anne's wedding.

Mr. Tom Pendry, MP for Stalybridge and Hyde, said he was writing to Mr. Heath, asking him to reconsider his choice.

"If the Prime Minister is considering re-shuffling his team, perhaps this could be high on his list," said Mr. Pendry.

The poem was "turgid, unromantic, and stamped with mediocrity," he said.

"These are the words of an idle scribbler.

"If this is the best he can do, he should apply for the Chiltern Hundreds and retire gracefully, even though he has been in the job for a short time only.

'No classic'

"I am not anxious to be a candidate for his job, but I think I could do better myself."

Another MP, Mr. Norman Tebbit, Conservative Epping, said: "I don't think it will rank among the classics of poetry."

This was Sir John's poem:

Hundreds of birds in the air
And millions of leaves on the pavement,
Then the bells pealing on
Over Palace and people outside,
All for the words "I will"
To love's most holy enslavement,
What can we do but rejoice
With a triumphing bridegroom and bride?

Sailor fined on drink charge

Petty Officer Thomas Bell was demoted by the Navy and had his pay cut by £120 a year after his arrest by police, he told Weymouth magistrates yesterday.

Bell, aged 27, of Grangecroft Road, Portland, was fined £75 and banned for a year after he admitted failing to give breath and blood samples and driving while unfit through drink.

Car wreckers

Vandals have smashed windscreens on three cars parked under the M5 viaduct in Huntworth, near Bridgwater.

World's Weather

ATHENS	Cloudy	66
ROME	Sunny	61
PARIS	Cloudy	54
LONDON	Cloudy	52
BERLIN	Cloudy	45
AMSTERDAM	Cloudy	39
BRUSSELS	Overcast	50
MADRID	Clear	66
MOSCOW	Cloudy	41
STOCKHOLM	Snow	28
HONG KONG	Cloudy	68
SAN FRANCISCO	Rain	61
LOS ANGELES	Clear	63
CHICAGO	Cloudy	57
MIAMI	Cloudy	79
TOKYO	Clear	63
HONGKONG	Sunny	72
BUENOS AIRES	Cloudy	73
HONOLULU	Rain	81
TORONTO	Cloudy	49
RIO DE JANEIRO	Cloudy	82
LISBON	Sunny	68
TEHERAN	Cloudy	63

For ever. Well, for five years

THE NAVY stores at Copenacre are advertising for staff for permanent positions, despite the fact that the stores are due to be transferred to Hartlebury, Worcestershire, in 1978.

The Ministry of Defence insisted yesterday that there was nothing unusual about the advertisement.

The advertisements, placed by the Navy Department for machine operators and trainees, offer an interesting and worthwhile career.

All move

A Defence Ministry spokesman said: "The move won't happen for a few years, and meanwhile we have to keep the staff up to strength.

"Those who take jobs there will be informed of the situation. When the move comes they will be offered jobs at Hartlebury.

"There are vast numbers of Royal Navy employees who move around from place to place. It is normal practice, part of their contract."

Shoplifter and wife

Charles Challenger and his wife, Lynette, both aged 22, made regular shoplifting expeditions into Gloucester for three months, city magistrates were told yesterday.

The couple, of Matson Avenue, Gloucester, admitted four joint charges of stealing from shops and wanted 17 other offences considered. The case was adjourned for two weeks for reports.

Unbuilt school is too small

A SCHOOL being built in Weymouth is already too small. And it won't be completed until next summer.

St. John's has been designed as first-tier comprehensive school for pupils up to the age of nine.

But until comprehensive education is introduced in the area — probably not until the late seventies — it has to take pupils from five to 11.

The county council now wants to use four mobile classrooms and a mobile toilet.

Weymouth Planning committee is unhappy with the application and deferred it yesterday for more information.

At the same time plans to demolish the old St. John's School, just off the seafront, to make way for apartment blocks and shops were deferred for the views of advisory architects.

Business gambler robbed the till

FORMER shop manager David Nathan aged 29, stole nearly £400 from his employers because he was being pressed to pay the debts of an unsuccessful business venture.

He hoped to win enough by gambling to pay off his debts.

But his gamble failed. Eventually he confessed to the police, Yeovil magistrates were told yesterday.

Nathan, married with two children, of Combe Close, Yeovil, admitted five theft charges, one of falsifying a Giro credit form, and asked for 12 other offences to be considered. The total amount involved was £385.06.

Into debt

Police Inspector James Bowler said Nathan took the money while managing J.J. Farquarson's sewing machine centre at the Triangle, Yeovil.

He pocketed some of the money he was supposed to have banked.

Mr. Neville Sanders, defending, said that after leaving the Army Nathan became a cash register salesman and did extremely well until decimalisation was introduced.

The firm ceased trading, and Nathan went into business on his own, servicing the machines.

But he was undercapitalised, and got more and more into debt.

Finally, his health gave way and the business was closed with debts of about £2,500. Creditors pressed for payment. He was "in a complete turmoil" when the offences were committed.

Nathan, unemployed, and living on Social Security and a disability pension, was put on probation for two years, and ordered to repay £385.06 to his former employers.

It's not like me, says Mr Bangs

DUNCAN Bangs, aged 18, who is accused of assaulting two policemen and a special constable, said yesterday he was surprised at the way his behaviour had been described by witnesses.

The jury at Gloucester Crown court have been told that Bangs was "like an animal", and behaved aggressively.

But Bangs, of Lowther House, Shurdington, Cheltenham, said if he did behave in that way, it was extremely out of character.

Giving evidence on the second day of his trial, he said his recollection of large parts of the evening in question was blank.

The prosecution alleged that Bangs was involved in a disturbance at a dance in Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham.

In hospital he tried to attack a police constable with a screw driver, and he pushed a special constable into a trolley carrying patients, causing the officer chest injuries, it was said.

It is also said that he pushed a detective constable into the windscreen of a police car, causing facial injuries, and that he damaged the car seat.

Total blank

He denies three charges of assault and one of causing criminal damage.

Bangs told the jury that at the party he was twice knocked unconscious by other people and his memory was blurred.

His mind was a total blank until the time when he was handcuffed by the police in Cheltenham General Hospital.

He remembered leaving the hospital and being shoved from behind, he said. Then, as he turned round, he was pushed to the floor and handcuffed and kicked.

The case goes on today.

Two on car charges

David Staveley and Colin Joyce, both aged 20, were sent for trial at Taunton crown court by Yeovil magistrates yesterday, on charges arising out of a car sale.

Joyce, of Folkestone, Kent, was charged with selling a car without authority and obtaining a car and cheque value together at £500 from Mr. Barry Baker, of North Street, Bradford Abbas.

He was remanded in custody.

Staveley was granted £50 bail on a charge of cashing a £345 cheque dishonestly obtained from Mr. Baker.

Noisy, 'but we can't stop it'

WEYMOUTH councillors are powerless to stop a motor racing event in the town on Sunday.

It is due to be held on land in the picture postcard suburb of Nottington.

"Just think of the noise. Is there nothing we can do to stop it?" asked **Alderman Mrs. Iseult Legh** at yesterday's Planning committee.

The council recently acquired powers from the Government to control the use of the land in question by circuses and fairs.

But solicitor **Mr. Christopher Rolfe** said that power did not cover any other uses on the land.

He was asked to investigate a comprehensive order for the area.

A MOTEL in the Dorchester road was approved by the committee.

A toll house will be demolished to make way for it.

Restaurant facilities provided within the motel complex, will not be open to the public.

The Shirt Blouse look

Designed for daytime to wear with slacks, skirts or suits. Smart and elegantly cut in exciting prints.
For example, a Rodier of Paris slim fitting shirt in polyester, at £10.95
A dark pattern-striped rayon long-sleeve shirt with rounded collar, at £4.95
Or a striking orange/green/navy/brown Continental fabric in a well-cut blouse, at £22.95

Ground Floor Restaurant for Coffees, Lunches and Teas.
Opening hours: Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Malcolm Parry Ltd
Chipping Sodbury
21a High Street, Chipping Sodbury
Bristol BS17 6BA
Telephone Chipping Sodbury 312622

STORM-COTE
The Decorative and Protective Coating for
YOUR HOME

Have it applied by a licensed applicator and see how your home will be improved.

- Hide those unsightly blemishes
- A completely versatile finish
- All-the-year-round protection
- Increase the value of your property
- Save your money in the long run
- Available in 9 attractive colours
- Finance facilities arranged if required
- Cheaper than comparative products

Storm-Cote is covered by a
Fifteen Year Guarantee
in writing

Industrial and Commercial applications undertaken. Just fill in the coupon for details.

To: GLOBAL TEXTURES (BATH)
Decorative Spray Specialist
30 The Oval, Englishcombe Park, Bath.
Please send me details of Storm-Cote.
Name .....
Address .....
..... Tel. .....
WDP

The businesslike way to get out of Bristol

Belfast
8 flights every week
Depart Mo We Fr 1640
Mo to Fr 1710

Dublin
7 flights every week*
Depart Tu Th Sa 0915
Mo We Fr Su 1220

Glasgow
5 flights every week
Depart Mo to Fr 1710

Jersey
3 flights every week
Depart Mo We Fr 1140

Liverpool
5 flights every week
Depart Mo to Fr 1710

Paris
3 flights every week
Depart Mo We Fr 0920

* Service operated in conjunction with Aer Lingus

It makes good business sense to fly British Airways Cambrian. You take off from your own Bristol airport and arrive at your destination fresh and ready for business.
All our flights are conveniently timed, and if you're flying from London, the world of British Airways' international connections is yours.
So fly British Airways Cambrian . . . and after the business, enjoy the flight home.

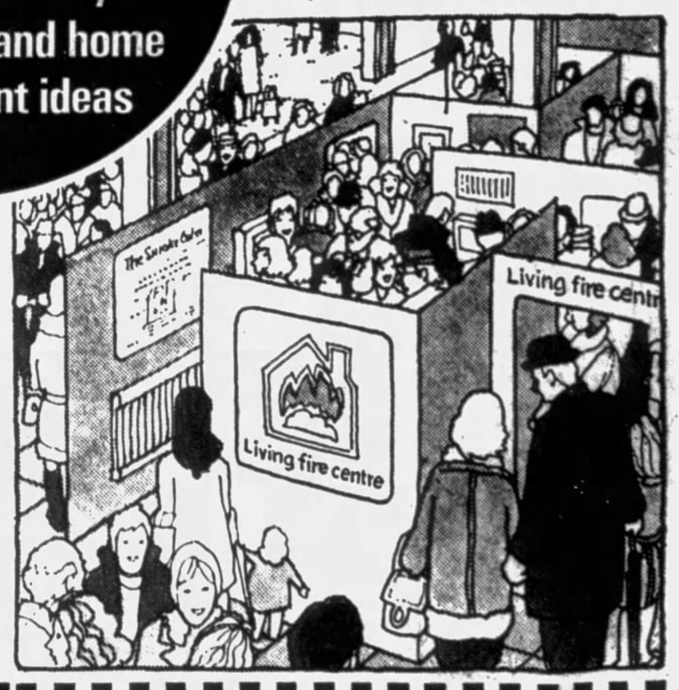
British airways
cambrian

Book through your Travel Agent or British Airways Cambrian, 35, College Green, Bristol BS1 5SS. 24 hour Reservations Service Tel: 298181.

Visit your NEW LIVING FIRE CENTRE
. . . source of todays best heating and home improvement ideas

. . . If you want to see what makes it the source of today's best heating and home improvement ideas, visit your new Living Fire Centre.
It's one of hundreds of new solid fuel showrooms set up throughout the country to show you what living fire heating is all about.
Here you'll see the latest living fire appliances. Like the revolutionary new Smoke Eaters that cut central heating fuel bills by up to 30% . . . and many more appliances that can cut your heating bills and improve your home no end.
Plus all the free literature and free advice you need to choose the heating that's right for your home.
All this plus the latest decor settings using Crown wallpaper and paints.
If you're shopping around for something better in heating, look into your Living Fire Centre.
It's the newest heating showroom in town, and when it comes to comfort and value for money it's the one you can't afford to miss.

The low cost living fire
Solid fuel has always been cheap to run.
And today that's truer than ever.
It has the power to run a house full of central heating and give you all your hot water cheaply. And running costs get better and better compared with other systems.
Today's roomheater designers have come up with all kinds of new ideas to make the most of this round-the-house heating power.
Designs that combine the beauty of honest-to-goodness flame with advanced controls to save you even more time and money.
Send for the wallet of information on the scores of living fires that give you more warmth for your money — and leave you more money for living.



at
J. & R. VICKERS LTD
82 Gloucester Road, Bristol.
Tel. Bristol 48636
or
S.F. WILLIAMS
(Builders Merchants) **LTD**
65 Lodge Causeway,
Fishponds, Bristol.
Tel. Bristol 657575
or
Tel. Bristol 20575
or fill in and post this coupon today.

To Solid Fuel Advisory Service, 39 Park Street, Bristol 1.
☐ Please send me the big free wallet of information including the big new colour home heating book on how to improve my home with real fire heating.
☐ Please arrange for an SFAS Registered Heating Contractor to visit me without obligation.
(tick as required)
Mr/Mrs/Miss.....
block letters please
Address.....
.....
Town..... Postal Code..... Tel. No.....
Z7
The Solid Fuel Advisory Service
Come home to a real fire